



Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet

Debby Stratford to Demonstrate Linoleum Block Printmaking at Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

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BEREA, Ky. — On Saturday, Nov. 8, Debby Stratford, of Louisville, will demonstrate linoleum block printmaking, cutting images into linoleum blocks and printing with a small press, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.

Stratford has always created artwork, beginning in first grade.

"I taught art to my classmates in second grade, and I fell in love with printmaking in high school," Stratford said. "My philosophy has always been that to teach art, you have to make art. So, for years, I have been teaching in the daytime and printing during breaks from school."

Originally from Pennsylvania, Stratford earned her degree in art education from Edinboro State College and went on to teach art in the Pennsylvania public schools. When her father, an ornamental iron artisan, moved to Louisville in 1977 to set up a metal shop, Stratford and her husband followed. While teaching art, she studied at the University of Louisville under John Whitsel and received her Master of Arts degree in teaching in 1984.

Printmaking is the result of marks made into a surface. That surface can be metal, stone, wood, linoleum, cardboard or even Styrofoam. Printmakers refer to the surface as a plate. The relief prints that Stratford makes are created by carving into or gouging out the surface of a linoleum block. The carved surface is then covered with ink using a brayer or roller. Paper is placed onto the inked surface and pressed by hand or with a printing press.

Original prints by Stratford are regularly available at the Kentucky Artisan Center, located at 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate 75 at Berea Exit 77. The center's exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the cafe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The center currently features works by more than 700 artisans from more than 100 counties across the Commonwealth. A gallery exhibit, "Put a Lid on It: Containers by Kentucky Artisans," is on display through Feb. 28, 2015; and in the lobby, "Kentucky Bourbon: Distillation and Inspiration," is on display through Nov. 16, 2014. For information about the center's events call 859-985-5448, visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center, or go to the center's website at www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Stratford prints on her press and shows a final print